

REMARKS

Prior to entry of the instant amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 19, 21, 22, 27, 33-36, 39-63 and 87-108 were pending, and claims 19, 21, 22, 27, 34-36, 40-63 and 91-108 were pending and withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended. Accordingly, upon entry of the presently amended claim set, claims 1, 3, 4, 19, 21, 22, 27, 33-36, 39-63 and 87-108 will be pending, and claims 19, 21, 22, 27, 34-36, 40-63, 91-108 will be pending.

Claim 1 has also been amended to specify that the sense strand comprises adenosines and guanosines, which are 2'-ribonucleotides.

Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as originally filed. The foregoing claim amendments have been made solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application and should in no way be construed as acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections in this or in any other Office Action issued in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the present claims prior to being amended herein in this application or in another related application.

In view of the foregoing claim amendments and the arguments set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, 33, 39 and 84-90 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-4, 33, 39 and 84-90 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over McSwiggen et al. (US2004/0192626). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. In order to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the siRNA comprises adenosines and guanosines in the sense strand, which are 2'-ribonucleotides. It is Applicants position that McSwiggen *et al.* fails to teach or suggest such siRNA molecules. As such, the cited reference fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of the amendments and remarks herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the sole remaining rejection of record, and allowance of the instant application with all pending claims are respectfully solicited. If there are any questions regarding the proposed amendments to the application, we invite the Examiner to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

An extension of time and appropriate fee is being filed herewith. If any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. UMY-062RCE2 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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